Journey With AUS: Outbound baggage handling system

Project description
The outbound baggage handling system (BHS) project will improve AUS's outbound luggage process, i.e. the process that moves checked luggage from the check-in counter, through security screening and to the aircraft.

The BHS is an interconnected network of moving parts including conveyor belts and equipment, most of which require upgrades to meet modern, industry standards.

The completion of this project will allow AUS to process/screen more bags and improve the flow of outbound luggage. The improvements to the system are intended to meet the future demand of 30 million annual passengers.

Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 2019</td>
<td>Agreement with contractor, Whiting-Turner, secured</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2020</td>
<td>Conceptual designs finalized</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2021</td>
<td>Tenant relocation and construction starts</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2022</td>
<td>Design approved by TSA</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of 2024</td>
<td>Initial part of new system anticipated to begin processing bags</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2022</td>
<td>Delivery and installation of system begins</td>
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Benefits to passengers
- Increases system reliability.
  - i.e. bags are less likely to miss their flight.
- Decreases potential flight delays from AUS.
- Meets growing outbound passenger demand.

Impacts to passengers and operations
- No visible construction work in the terminal.
- Construction primarily occurs at night and early in the morning when there is less staff and passengers.
- Temporary construction wall and other measures are put in place to ensure we're meeting safety standards throughout the project.
The total cost for this project is approximately $176.7 million.

The funding for this project comes from traditional airport development funding sources such as airport cash reserves, current and future airport revenues, future revenue bond proceeds and Federal Aviation Administration grants.

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Project partners

- **Whiting-Turner**
  - **Prime contractor**

- **AECOM**
  - **Subject matter expert**

- **Gensler**
  - **Architect**

- **Siemens Logistics**
  - **Original equipment manufacturer**

- **VTC**
  - **Conceptual designer**

- **GRAEF**
  - **Structural designer**

- **Moye Consulting**
  - **IT, Security**

**City of Austin**
Department of Aviation; Public Works Department; Capital Contracting Office; Development Services Department; Small and Minority Business Resources Department

**Fast facts**

- Bags will travel on 1.5 miles of conveyer belts with the new system.
- Near-term: The BHS will process 2,400 bags per hour (that's 800 more than the current system).
- Once fully completed: The BHS will process 4,000 bags per hour.